

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	April 15, 2024
Action Required:	Approval of Resolution
Presenter:	Chris Gensic, Park and Trail Planner
Staff Contacts:	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Title:	Resolution appropriating funding for Hydraulic Road shared use path study - \$40,000 (1 of 2 readings)

Background

The Virginia Department of Transportation, working through the SmartScale program, is working now to construct improvements to the Hydraulic Road between the 250 bypass and Route 29. The VDOT project includes the construction of a shared-use path from Route 250 to Brandywine Drive. Due to cost and technical considerations, the project did not include a shared-use path from Brandywine Drive to Michie Drive; instead, it left that as a typical sidewalk. Public input on the project requested that the shared use path be extended to this additional block. VDOT advised that the City can design, fund, and construct that project separately from the current project. The City of Charlottesville is planning to hire a firm to explore the engineering options and provide a cost estimate for installing a shared-use path segment between Brandywine Drive and Michie Drive, so the City can determine if the project is possible and allocate funding for it.

Discussion

The City has already constructed much of the planned shared-use path along the north side of the Route 250 bypass from John Warner Parkway at East McIntire Park to Hydraulic Road. The City is also working to construct a shared-use path from Michie Drive north to Greenbrier Park along the Meadow Creek valley, a funded project nearly ready for bid. If the study can determine that it is possible within the constraints of the segment of Hydraulic Road, \$800,000 will be allocated towards the construction of this segment.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Construction of this trail will further council goals of being a Connected City by establishing a portion of the bicycle and pedestrian trail system that enhances our residential neighborhoods.

Community Engagement

The bicycle, pedestrian and trail master plan was developed with multiple public meetings and was approved by council to be an addendum to the City Comprehensive Plan.

Budgetary Impact

This project will be funded by state grant funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation and local funds from the City. \$40,000 in local funding will come from previously appropriated dollars in the City's Capital Project Contingency account in the Capital Projects Fund.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the appropriation.

Alternatives

If funds are not appropriated, the existing sidewalk will remain, leaving a gap in the shared use path network that does not accommodate bicycles.

Attachments

1. RES_Hydraulic Road Trail Study -Appropriation April 2024